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THE OBSERVATOR.

rry-Clitus, his Reflections on the Observators *Letters sent to the* Speaker. *Of a Mon-rous* Perkinite *in the* Strand. *Of two* Perkinites *at* Jacobs *Coffee-house. Of the Affair of the Victualing. A Running Sea Story.*

From **Wednesday** March the 8th, to **Saturday** March the 11th, 170⅘.

WELL, Honest *Country-man*, what News now at *London?* What do the People say of things?

Country-m. I don't know what they say of ings; they talk most of Persons, and I think y talk more of you than any body else.

Obs. Prithee what do they say of me? Will they er be quiet and let me alone? I have been ock'd down in a *Swoon* for Ten Days together a *Proclamation:* What are they minded to il me to Life again? Prithee what do they ? Out with it.

Country-m. Why, Sir, The *Perkinite Society*, or *rry-Clitus* his Club, say that you wrote three pudent Letters to the Speaker, and they have wn up for you a foolish Nonsensical Petition.

Obs. I don't question but it is Foolish enough, t be of their Composing; but, as to the Letters nt to the *Speaker*, the House did not Condemn m as *Impudent*; and that they were not An-red, was none of my Fault. Had they been swered, it would not have been a Penny Ad-ntage to me; it would have been so to the Go-rnment, by saving the Queen the Charge of a *clamation*. But how came *Popish Harry* by the ntents of these Letters? Surely we have no mbers that are *Occasional Conformists* with a b of *Non-Jurors* and *Perkinites*. Tho' the mbers of that Club could Dedicate their *Libel*, led *The Letters from the Living to the Living*, hich is full of *Bawdry*, *Blasphemy*, and *Reflections* the Government) *to a Member of the House of mons:* And I can't believe the Clerks of that use are Correspondents with a Crew of such In-nous Villains.—Well, as *John Dryden* said, *Sons of* Belial *have a Glorious time.* The *Per-ites* are thot-free: Had I taken upon me to ndemn, what the *House of Commons* thought t fit to Censure, when it was under the Consi-ration of the House; it might have put the een to the Charge of another *Proclamation.*—t, I tell thee, I am ready to Answer in Court ny Indictment, where I expect to have fair y, (and not to be Condemn'd without being ard) which will be the Practice of our Courts *Justice*, as long as the present *Judges* are in Be-; and if they are Succeeded by the Race of *feries* and *Jenner*, I can but go into another untry; I have been Taught the way already.

Country-m. I have heard Folks say when a an comes upon his Tryal, in some Cases he has Liberty to except against some of his *Jury-men.* w if your Case admits of this Practice, I would ve you except against one particular Person that ts himself forward to be on your *Jury.*

Obs. Prithee who's that?

Country-m. 'Tis a great Paunch Bellyed Fellow at Lives in the *Strand*, within two Miles of *Strand* idge. He was upon I don't know how many ries, in those Reigns when they Hang'd the igs at such a Confounded Rate; he suck'd their Blood like a *Horse Leach.* In King *Williams* Reign he Repented, by getting himself on the *Juries*, and by Hanging the *Papists* and *Tories*; and now in this Reign he has Repented like a *Dog* in a *Wheel*, and is turn'd a *Perkinite.* About *Trinity-Term* was a Twelve Month, he was Convicted of Kidnapping at *Westminster*, and was Fined 100 Marks, he was lately Bail for One of the *Conspirators*; and yet I am told he is a *Justice* of—— for the County of *H*——; Pray have a Care of this Monster?

Obs. Never fear it, he can't be on my *Jury*, for I must be Try'd in *London.* But the Story you have gather'd of this Fellow is true enough: He's a near Relation to the *Incorrigible Rogue* in the *Queens-Bench*, tho' not of the same Proportion of Body, for the Kidnapper in the *Strand* is *FULLER* every way. I could match him in *Surrey*, within two Mile of the *Burrough*, and I could make some Pertinent Observations on his past Life, and his present Reputation with some sort of People, but you know I am under the Hatches; if some People say my Ears are *Horns*, I must say so too, or be in danger of losing them.

Country-m. Master *Observator*, I have brought you one of your own Papers, that of Number 87, with some Marginal Notes, written upon it by some *Jacobites* at *Jacobs* Coffee-house. I have learnt who the Fellows are, one of 'em is a poor Snivling Book-keeper to a Merchant; he's a Fellow that would *Tire Man* or *Woman* to hear his Nonsense; 'tother day the Souce-Crown was Be-rebelling the *Protestants* in *Hungary*, and *France*, at a strange rate. The 'tother is a poor *Callow* imfeather'd two Leg'd thing, a *Norwich* Factor, and lives less than a Mile without *Bishopgate*; he Married a *Non-Conforming Ministers* Daughter; and therefore when he's at home, like a civil Citizen, out of Respect to his Spouse, he's quite another Man; But when he's Drinking of *Jacobs* Well-Water; then who but he for *Perkin*, for a *French* Government, for the *Occasional Conformity Bill*; and who so much against the *House of Lords*, against the *Bishops*, and King *William* and his Ministry?

Obs. Thoul't tire me with the Relation of the *Malice* and *Rancour* of the Enemies of our Country. What do their Marginal Notes say? Let's hear that.

Country-m. Why, where you mention the *Occasional Conformity Bill*, in the Margent, they Write *Hypocrisie*; when you say our Bishops are Patterns of *Piety*, they Write *Impiety*; where you say King *William* of *Pious Memory*; they Write of *Impious Memory*, when you say the *Church*, they say the *Conventicle*; and I don't know how many such Foolish Malicious Expressions.

Obs. I find you know where these Fellows live; prithee tell the *Book-Keepers* Master of it, and tell him if he Entrusts that Fellow with his Cash, he'll remit the Major part of it to St. *Germains*; tell the *Factors* Wife of it, and she'll lead him a weary

weary Life I'll warrant him; he'll be in as bad a Condition with his Wife on his Back, as was poor Doctor *Westfill* upon the Revolution; the Women without *Bishopsgate*, Gossip all of 'em at the *Pye-Tavern*, and at their next Convocation 'tis Ten to One but this poor Fellow will be Chatter'd to Death among 'em. But I'll assure thee, I am as much as these Men can be for a Bill against *Hypocrisie*; and the greatest *Hypocrites* in *England*, are such as get into Offices under pretences of being *High Churchmen*, and are little better than *Atheists*, that make a Mock at *Sin*, that are Men of no *Morals*, that *Rob* and *Spoil*, and live on the *Publick Treasure* of the Nation; these are the Men which we ought to Exclude from Offices. As for their Invectives against King *William*, the *Bishops*, the House of *Hannover*, the House of *Peers*, &c. These things being common, are not worthy of Notice; you find no *Proclamations*, no *Prosecutions* upon those People; such as Detect Publick *Frauds*, and Write in Defence of *English Liberty*, are the People that suffer.

Country-m. Now you talk of Publick *Frauds*, I must not forget to tell you, that our Noble Patriots the *Peers*, have gone thro' the Business relating to the *Victualing*, which you brought before them, notwithstanding your Absence, occasioned by an Order of the *House of Commons*; they have found it full as bad as you have often related it; but there are a sort of People, that Reflect upon you, as having Recriminated on the *Lord High Admiral*, in Objecting against the Conduct of his Council.

Obs. That I expected. All Criminals have some *Subterfuge* or other, they have some *Asylum*, some great Wing or other, under which they'll endeavour to Screen themselves from *Justice*; but I'll tell thee, Honest *Country-man*, the highest Office in *England*, is not above the *Law* of *England*; and the *Laws* of *England* were made to Detect and Punish *Offenders*. The House of *Peers* are Natural and Proper Judges in this Case; and stand as it were a Barrier to the People, against the Oppressions of Great Men in Offices. They Examine Witnesses upon *Oath*, and therefore are the most likely to discover the Truth of Matter of Fact. They are above the reach of *Bribery*, and therefore we need not fear a Corrupt Verdict being given in that House; and well was it for the poor Sailors of the *English* Navy, that their Cause was brought before such Compassionate and Just Judges.

'Tis plain there is a gross Mismanagement and Abuse in the *Victualing* of the *English Navy*; the fault must lie some where, and those that endeavour to remove it from the Door of the Princes *Council*, intend to lay it at the Door of the Lord *High Admiral*; but let it lye where it will, the Party Guilty is accountable to Parliament; for the *Navy* of *England*, the *Sailors* in that *Navy*, and all other Forces, are the *Defence* and *Security* of *Englishmen*. We pay for the Repairs of the Walls of our *Island*; and 'tis our Business to take notice of its *Dilapidations*.——But to set you and the whole Nation right in this Affair, I will give you a *Succinct* Account of the proceedings in relation to this Complaint, by which any honest Man may conclude that neither my *Self*, the *Complainers*, nor at last the *House of Peers* in their Enquiry and Resolutions on this Complaint, offered the least Affront or Indignity to the Lord *High-Admiral*.

This Complaint, the last Sessions of Parliament, was offered to several Members of the *House of Commons*, who could not be prevail'd upon to Sent the *Complainers Petition* to the House; a whole Session was wasted in this Fruitless Endeavour. The House Rising, and the Grievances being redress'd, and the Sailors being likely to [illegible] as they have since that time done; I Advised *Complainers* to Petition the Lord *High-Admiral*, which was accordingly done: His Highness immediately referr'd the Consideration of the Petition to His Council; so that the Lord *High-Admiral* in that performed the whole of His Duty. But the Petition Praying for an immediate Survey of the Stores, it was deferr'd for about two Months after the Delivery of the Petition, which gave an Opportunity to the *Victuallers* to Send Abroad what part of the Stores they thought not proper to be out of the way at the Survey. Affidavits were Made and Deliver'd to the Privy Council, of Embezelments of the Stores by several Persons Employ'd in the *Victualling*; and they were found by the *Grand Jury* at *Hicks's-Hall* against Eight of the said Persons; notwithstanding which, the *Grand Grievance* was not Redressed and the Persons found Guilty were still continued to be Employ'd in the Service. Now what could be done in this? Does it not Rationally follow that we must have Recourse to the *Dernier Resort*, the last Refuge of Distressed *Englishmen*, *i. e.* Parliament? We had spent a whole Sessions in Attending on the *House of Commons* to no Purpose. Had we then any other Object of *Justice* in view but the *House of Lords*? And thus that Case stands, and this is the *Primum Mobile* of all my Trouble.

Country-m. Well, Sir, I see your Cause is Just and Honest, you suffer for being an *Englishman* on the best Bottom that can be, without hopes of Reward, for which I love you more every Day. But truly abundance of People Lament the Sad Condition of our Navy and pity the Deplorable State of our poor Sailors; we are likely to Retrieve the Glory of the *English* Nation by Sea, as we have done by Land; I have pick'd up a very odd Sea Story this Bout at *London*; 'tis not a Fighting, but a Running Story: On *Saturday* the 26th of *February* last, the *Queenborough* Man of War of 26 Guns and 100 Men, was Chased in by the *Dover Peer*, by two *French* Privateers of 10 and 8 Guns, and was Protected by the Fort; the People on Shoar, amazed to see such a Chase, sent about 30 Stout Fellows on Board the *Queenborough*, and told the Captain they would go out with him with as many more if he pleased, but all their Intreaties could not prevail with him to go from the safe shelter of the Fort.

Obs. Our Ancestors used their Shipping to defend their Forts, and not their Forts to defend their Ships. I could nick your Story by a abundance of Parallel Instances, but 'tis late, and we must Repair to our Beds.

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